

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

November 2nd 2012

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource

Government
of Alberta 

www.alberta.ca



<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| Answer | Word | Definition |
|--------|---------------|--|
| e | 1. resuming | a) the land next to the ocean |
| | 2. pace | b) not able to move |
| | 3. coastline | c) destroyed or broken |
| | 4. stunned | d) pile of snow, often created by the wind |
| | 5. trapped | e) starting again after having stopped for some time |
| | 6. complexes | f) the amount of damage, the number of losses |
| | 7. snowdrifts | g) before |
| | 8. former | h) speed |
| | 9. toll | i) shocked, unable to move |
| | 10. shattered | j) groups of connected buildings |

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. When did the subways begin working in New York?
2. When did superstorm Sandy hit New York?
3. Which city was still not functioning 3 days after the hurricane?
4. How were people in New York affected by the storm?
5. Who should we be most concerned about?
6. How high were snowdrifts in West Virginia?
7. What happened to hurricane Sandy when it went inland?
8. How many people died because of hurricane Sandy?

Discussion Question

Have you ever experienced extreme weather? With winter here, how should we prepare for a blizzard (snow storm)? What precautions should we take?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------|----------------|
| findings (results) | public | illegal |
| donation | legislature | workings |
| hidden | opposition | <u>premier</u> |

Extra definition to help you understand the reading:

Chief electoral officer – the person in charge of elections in Canada.

1. Alison Redford, from the Progressive Conservative party, is the premier of Alberta.
2. Members of Parliament that are not from the PC party are known as the _____.
3. The _____ is an elected group of people who make or change laws.
4. When it is time for elections the political parties take _____ to help them fund their campaign.
5. The _____ of research studies are often published in journals.
6. It was very cloudy last night. The moon was _____ by the clouds.
7. Smoking is not allowed inside any _____ place in Alberta.
8. Police investigate _____ activity.
9. Most of the _____ of the government are unknown to citizens.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Alison Redford will make sure the public is given _____. | a) all the findings of an investigation b) all the information about Daryl Katz |
| 2. There will be an investigation into whether Daryl Katz _____. | a) illegally received money from the PC party b) illegally gave money to the PC party |
| 3. The maximum donation from one person to a political party is _____. | a) \$300,000 b) \$30,000 |
| 4. The last election in Alberta was _____. | a) in the spring b) in the summer |
| 5. The opposition want the government to _____. | a) publicize other investigation results. b) make donations illegal. |
| 6. The Progressive Conservatives are also called the _____. | a) Tories b) Redford Group |

Discussion Question

Why is it a good idea to limit how much money one person can give to a political party?

Should all political donations be banned?

Language Focus

Identifying the simple future tense and its use

Future tense – we use the future tense when we want to explain what is expected to happen in the future.

Forming the future tense:

1. **Will + verb** (in base form)

- We use will to express a promise, a voluntary action or a prediction.

I **will go** to school tomorrow.

She **will meet** her friend.

2. **Am/is/are + going to + verb** (in base form)

- We use 'be' going to express a plan or a prediction.

I **am going to study** tonight.

He **is going to watch** a movie.

We **are going to go** to the store.

Listen to the second story again.

Can you hear the future tense? Why is the future tense being used?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

| Words and Definitions |
|---|
| honours – a top public award or prize |
| dark – unhappy or sad |
| gala – a public celebration or party |
| scam – an illegal or dishonest plan to get money |
| established – officially started |
| in memory of – as a way of remembering someone who has died |

Extra definition to help you understand the reading:

star-studded: describing an event when a lot of famous people attend

1. university. brother was My given by his top honours

My brother was given top honours by his university.

2. was too dark The for children. book

3. to help We went to gala the raise money.

4. the victim My mom was scam. of a

5. our business We in 2010. established.

6. this tree in of memory our grandmother. We planted

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Will Ferguson won a prize for his comedy writing.
2. The prize was \$50,000.
3. Ferguson accepted the prize in Toronto.
4. Sales of the book 419 will probably not change.
5. The prize was named after Jack Rabinovitch.
6. It has been given every year since 1984.

Discussion Question Do you think it is important to give prizes to the top writers in a country? In what ways do these prizes have an effect on the culture?

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

| | NOVEMBER 2 ND WEEKLY NEWS STORIES | TIME |
|--------------|---|------|
| Introduction | Hi, this is Nirmala Naidoo. You're listening to Learning English with CBC news for November 2 nd . | 0:00 |
| Story 1 | <p>New York City moved closer to resuming its usual fast pace when the subways started working again on Thursday, three days after superstorm Sandy. But neighbouring New Jersey was still stunned by the damage to its coastal areas. Days after the storm, millions of people were still without power, including hundreds of thousands in New York City. Concerns grew about the elderly and poor trapped on upper floors of housing complexes who had dark hallways, elevators without power and little food left. In New Jersey, the coastline was shattered. In West Virginia, there were snowdrifts as high as 1.5 metres where the former hurricane mixed with two winter storms as it went inland. The death toll from Sandy was more than 80 in North America. Earlier the storm had killed almost 70 in the Caribbean.</p> | 0:10 |
| Story 2 | Alberta Premier Alison Redford says she will make sure the public is given all the findings from an investigation into whether Edmonton Oilers' owner, Daryl Katz illegally gave money, at least \$300,000, to the Progressive Conservative party. Alberta's chief electoral officer has said he will investigate Katz's donation to the Tories in the spring election. The most one person can give to a party during an election is \$30,000. Redford told the legislature Wednesday that she will make sure the workings of government are not hidden. But the opposition parties are not sure about that. And they want the province to make the results of other investigations into illegal donations public, as well. | 1:18 |
| Story 3 | Will Ferguson has won the 2012 Giller Prize. This prize is a \$50,000 award and is one of Canada's top honours for writers. Ferguson is best known for his humour and travel writing; however, the Calgary writer won for his dark novel <i>419</i> . He accepted the prize at a star-studded gala in Toronto. <i>419</i> is a story about an email scam and a woman who sets out on a search for those she believes are responsible for her father's death. As well as the cash prize, Ferguson will probably see an increase in sales for <i>419</i> . The prize was established in 1994 by businessman Jack Rabinovitch in memory of his late wife, journalist Doris Giller. It is given out each year. In the past, the prize has been given to writers such as Mordecai Richler, Rohinton Mistry, Alice Munro and Esi Edugyan. | 2:23 |

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

| Answer | Word | Definition |
|--------|---------------|--|
| e | 1. resuming | a) the land next to the ocean |
| h | 2. pace | b) not able to move |
| a | 3. coastline | c) destroyed or broken |
| i | 4. stunned | d) pile of snow, often created by the wind |
| b | 5. trapped | e) starting again after having stopped for some time |
| j | 6. complexes | f) the amount of damage, the number of losses |
| d | 7. snowdrifts | g) before |
| g | 8. former | h) speed |
| f | 9. toll | i) shocked, unable to move |
| c | 10. shattered | j) groups of connected buildings |

Listening

1. When did the subways begin working in New York? *The subways began on Thursday.*
2. When did superstorm Sandy hit New York? *The superstorm hit New York on Monday (3 days later the subways began working again).*
3. Which city was still not functioning 3 days after the hurricane? *New Jersey was still stunned.*
4. How were people in New York affected by the storm? *Millions of people were without power.*
5. Who should we be most concerned about? *The elderly and the poor who are trapped high above ground with no power and little food.*
6. How high were snowdrifts in West Virginia? *They were 1.5 metres high.*
7. What happened to hurricane Sandy when it went inland? *The hurricane mixed with two winter storms.*
8. How many people died because of hurricane Sandy? *More than 150 (more than 80 in North America and almost 70 in the Caribbean.)*

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. Alison Redford, from the Progressive Conservative party, is the premier of Alberta.
2. Members of Parliament that are not from the PC party are known as the opposition.
3. The legislature is an elected group of people who make or change laws.

4. When it is time for elections the political parties take donations to help them fund their campaign.
5. The findings of a research study are often published in a journal.
6. It was very cloudy last night. The moon was hidden by the clouds.
7. Smoking is not allowed inside any public place in Alberta.
8. Police investigate illegal activity.
9. Most of the workings of the government are unknown to citizens.

Listening

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Alison Redford will make sure the public is given _____. | a) all the findings of an investigation. b) all the information about Daryl Katz. |
| 2. There will be an investigation into whether Daryl Katz _____. | a) illegally received money from the PC party. b) illegally gave money to the PC party. |
| 3. The maximum donation from one person to a political party is _____. | a) \$300,000 b) \$30,000 |
| 4. The last election in Alberta was _____. | a) in the spring b) in the summer |
| 5. The opposition want the government to _____. | a) publicize other investigation results. b) make donations illegal. |
| 6. The Progressive Conservatives are also called the _____. | a) Tories b) Redford Group |

Language Focus

Alberta Premier Alison Redford says she **will make sure** the public is given all the findings from an investigation into whether Edmonton Oilers' owner Daryl Katz illegally gave money, at least \$300,000, to the Progressive Conservative party.

Alberta's chief electoral officer has said he **will investigate** Katz's donation to the Tories in the spring election. The most one person can give to a party is \$30,000. Redford told the legislature Wednesday that she **will make sure** that the workings of government are not hidden.

News story 3

Vocabulary

1. My brother was given top honours by his university.
2. The book was too dark for children.
3. We went to the gala to help raise money.
4. My mom was the victim of a scam.
5. We established our business in 2010.
6. We planted this tree in memory of our grandmother.

Listening

1. F Will Ferguson won a prize for his comedy writing.
2. T The prize was \$50,000.
3. T Ferguson accepted the prize in Toronto.
4. F Sales of the book 419 will probably not change.
5. F The prize was named after Jack Rabinovitch.
6. F It has been given every year since 1984.